

Winter 2021 Congregation Connect



Homelessness to a Home

The Homelessness to a Home program secures permanent housing for people placed in hotels and motels throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and provides ongoing support.

"It's a circuit breaker," says Uniting's acting co-ordinator of housing and homelessness services in Ballarat, Adam Liversage.

"We hope to prove this is a successful model and stop the revolving door into homelessness."

The team in Ballarat has prioritised 74 people or households out of more than 700 who are eligible.

The Victorian government is supplying 15 social housing properties and is purchasing 18 more from the private market.

Uniting is supplying 35 properties, some that are existing and the others through new leasing arrangements.

The new arrangement will see Uniting sign the lease with the real estate agent and the tenant signs the lease through us.

The tenant pays 25% of their income as rent and the program makes up the difference.

"It's lucrative for landlords. We are responsible for damages and the rent. The rent gets paid regardless of whether it is tenanted or not."

"Once a person or family is placed in a property, Uniting support continues for up to 18 months.

"This support gives people the best opportunity to sustain their tenancy moving forward," says Adam.

Your Mission Team at Uniting Vic.Tas

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Help spread warmth this winter

We are aiming to bring warmth and comfort to people sleeping rough this winter - and we need your congregation's help.

With the end of JobKeeper and the reduction in the JobSeeker payment, we're bracing for a surge in people experiencing homelessness.

Your congregation can drop off new or good quality used blankets, doonas, swags, jackets, and other winter woollies.

Congregation members from the Ballarat Central Uniting Church have been busy making quilts to distribute to people doing it tough this winter.

Thanks to the beauty of the quilts, the congregation members are offering not only practical support, but also a treasured keepsake.

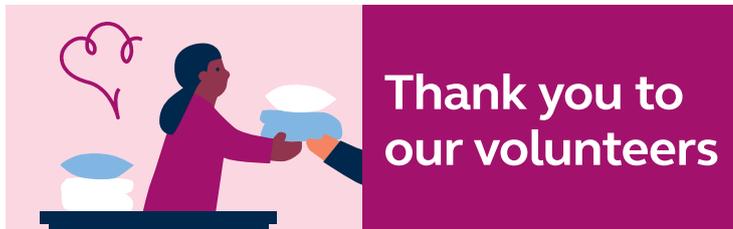
The congregation also held its annual quilt display in April, with all proceeds going to Uniting's emergency relief service in Ballarat.

To find out where to drop off donations, visit, unitingvictas.org.au/emergency-relief



Uniting is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Uniting



National Volunteer Week in May is an important event on our calendar because we know the invaluable contribution our volunteers make.

In the past year, over 2400 volunteers devoted more than 1.3 million hours of service to Uniting – which equates to approximately \$57 million in kind.

Due to COVID-19, demand for our services has grown to never before seen levels.

We're seeing many individuals and families coming to us in need of support for the first time in their lives, having never faced such a crisis.

As we were forced to reimagine the way we work, and change what volunteering at Uniting looked like, our volunteers quickly adapted to find innovative and safe ways to deliver essential services, care, comfort and more to people in need.

Thank you to our volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without you.



Dynamic duo help people in need

Husband and wife, Aliuddin and Nishat recently started volunteering at our emergency relief service in Hobart.

“Aliuddin has been a shining star. Along with coming in at short notice to cover other volunteers, working additional hours during peak periods, he is also more than willing to do the less glamorous jobs like taking rubbish to the tip,” says Community Services Coordinator, Charlotte Ryan.

“Aliuddin has put in countless hours for our emergency relief outreach and community meals programs, while also studying.

“Aliuddin and Nishat are a great team and they enjoy working together to give back to their community.”

Contact Uniting

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Albert Park Op Shop receives new lease of life.

The Uniting Albert Park Op Shop is a much-loved fixture in the local community.

For over 70 years, people have flocked to the shop to bag a bargain or donate their pre-loved items.

The shop was operated by South Port Parish Mission with responsibility being transferred to Uniting Vic.Tas last year to continue this legacy.

The shop has undergone renovations and recently re-opened with a fresh new look.

Some volunteers have been supporting the Op Shop for more than 20 years.

The shop provides funds to support emergency relief services in South Melbourne, as well as a youth program in 5 local schools.

Fundraising campaign

This winter, Uniting Vic.Tas is running a campaign to raise funds to meet the growing demand for our services.

We are using Facebook to grow our supporter base, increase our profile in the community and bring in more money to fund programs that help those who need it most.

If you are a Facebook user, you may see some of our posts.